

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on February 20, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Roy Brown (R)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)  
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)  
Sen. Don Ryan (D)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)  
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary  
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 455, 2/15/2007; SB 352,  
2/13/2007; SB 465, 2/15/2007; SB  
466, 2/15/2007  
Executive Action: SB 466, SB 148, SB 419

00:06:34 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

**HEARING ON SB 455**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:07:54 **SEN. DON RYAN (D), SD 10**, opened the hearing on **SB 455**,  
Cap interest rates on deferred deposit loans and title  
loans.

**Proponents:**

00:13:23 Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of  
Justice

**EXHIBIT (bus38a01)**

00:18:45 Terry Kendrick, Montana Women Vote, Policy Institute

**EXHIBIT (bus38a02)**

00:21:27 Jennifer Hill-Hart, MCADSV

00:22:24 Olivia Riutta, Working for Equity and Economic  
Liberation (WEEL)

**EXHIBIT (bus38a03)**

00:24:48 Tara Veazey, Public Defender

**Opponents:**

00:26:01 Jeff Mangan, Self

00:34:18 Bernie Harrington, Montana Financial Association

**EXHIBIT (bus38a04)**

00:40:23 John McCloskey, Attorney, Select Management Resources

**EXHIBIT (bus38a05)**

00:42:38 Riley Johnson, Community Financial Services Association  
of America

**EXHIBIT (bus38a06)**

00:43:59 Todd Coutts, Advance Finance Company

00:45:49 Chris Gallus, Staples Law Office, Consumer Loans of America

00:46:02 J.D. Lynch, Montana Financial Service Centers

00:46:29 Kevin Pfaul, Self

**Informational Testimony:**

00:46:55 Annie Goodwin, Commissioner, Montana Financial Institutions, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:47:24 Sen. Larson to Annie Goodwin, DLI

00:51:13 Sen. Brown to Sen. Ryan

00:53:07 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Ryan

00:55:39 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Ryan

00:57:38 Sen. Tropila to J.D. Lynch, Montana Financial Service Centers

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:58:20 Sen. Ryan

**HEARING ON SB 352**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:03:16 **SEN. GARY PERRY (R), SD 35**, opened the hearing on **SB 352**, Exempt 3rd class cities from firefighter age restrictions.

**Proponents:**

01:04:00 Ken Davis, Firefighter

01:07:12 Kelly Gibson, Firefighter

01:07:48 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

01:10:26 Bob Worthington, Montana Municipal Insurance Authority

01:12:10 Fred Rice, Former Operations Manager for West  
Yellowstone

**Opponents:**

01:13:46 Jack Trethewey, Montana State Council of  
Firefighters

01:15:31 Doug Neil, Montana State Fireman's Association

01:18:06 Harry Payne, Human Resource Director, City Of Helena

**Informational Testimony:**

01:19:08 Kim Flatow, Montana Public Employee Retirement Service  
(MPERS)

01:20:19 Sen. Brown to Pat Murdo, LSD

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:20:48 Sen. Smith to Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's  
Association

01:23:47 Sen. Cocchiarella to Ken Davis, Firefighter

01:26:00 Sen. Balyeat to Bob Worthington, Montana Municipal  
Insurance Authority referred to Ken Davis, Firefighter.

01:28:54 Sen. Balyeat to Kim Flatow, MPERS

01:35:56 Sen. Tropila to Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's  
Association

01:38:23 Sen. Ryan to Ken Davis, Firefighter

01:39:39 Sen. Ryan to Fred Rice, Former Operations Manager for  
West Yellowstone

01:41:23 Sen. Squires to Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's  
Association

01:42:39 Sen. Brown to Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's  
Association

01:43:12 Sen. Brown to Ken Davis, Firefighter

01:43:37 Sen. Balyeat to Doug Neil, Montana State Firemen's  
Association

01:47:06 Sen. Smith to Kim Flatow, MPERS

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:48:19 Sen. Perry

01:50:45 Break

02:06:11 Back from break

**HEARING ON SB 465**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:06:36 **SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA (D)**, SD 47, opened the hearing on **SB 465**, Exempt state fund from ITSD requirements.

**Proponents:**

02:09:07 Lawrence Hubbard, CEO, Montana State Fund

**EXHIBIT**(bus38a07)

02:22:16 Aidan Myhre, Employer's Inc.

**Opponents:**

02:24:21 Dick Clark, CEO, Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), Department of Administration (D of A)

**EXHIBIT**(bus38a08)

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:30:05 Sen. Esp to Dick Clark, D of A

02:31:45 Sen. Esp to Sen. Cocchiarella

02:33:04 Sen. Esp to Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund

02:34:09 Sen. Larson to Jeff Brandt, D of A

02:36:11 Sen. Brown to Sen. Cocchiarella

02:38:23 Sen. Brown to Lawrence Hubbard, MSF

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:40:40 Sen. Cocchiarella

**HEARING ON SB 466**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:43:15 **SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA (D), SD 47**, opened the hearing on **SB 466**, Small business regulatory flexibility act.

02:45:44 Hal Harper, Governor's Office

02:48:54 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

02:51:50 Ronda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Chambers of Commerce

**Proponents:**

02:45:44 Hal Harper, Governor's Office

02:48:54 Riley Johnson, NFIB

02:51:50 Ronda Wiggers, Helena and Great Falls Area chamber

**Opponents:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:53:35 Sen. Balyeat to Hal Harper, Governor's Office

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:56:26 Sen. Cocchiarella

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 466**

02:58:08 **Motion:** **SEN. ESP** moved that **SB 466 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

02:58:17 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Cocchiarella

03:00:28 Sen. Tropila

03:00:48 Sen. Balyeat

03:01:09 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TROPILA CALLED THE QUESTION ON SB 466. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 148**

03:01:50 **Motion:** SEN. SQUIRES moved that SB 148 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

03:03:00 Sen. Cocchiarella

03:03:27 **Motion:** SEN. SQUIRES moved that SB 148 BE TABLED.

**Discussion:**

03:05:19 **Vote:** Motion that SB 148 BE TABLED carried 6-4 by roll call vote with SEN. BALYEAT, SEN. BROWN, SEN. ESP, and SEN. STEINBEISSER voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 419**

**Discussion:**

03:05:33 Sen. Cocchiarella

03:07:26 **Motion:** SEN. SQUIRES moved that SB 419 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

03:07:43 Pat Murdo, LSD

03:08:58 Sen. Squires to Pat Murdo, LSD

03:13:18 Sen. Squires

03:13:27 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TROPILA CALLED THE QUESTION ON SB 419. Motion carried 6-5 by voice vote with SEN. BALYEAT, SEN. BROWN, SEN. ESP, SEN. JACKSON, and SEN. STEINBEISSER voting no. SEN. JACKSON voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:20 A.M.

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SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

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CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([bus38aad.pdf](#))**